



March 1, 2021

Ref: 243879

Frank Lento, Chair
Board of Education
School District No. 5 (Southeast Kootenay)
Email: frank.lento@sd5.bc.ca

Dear Mr. Lento:

Thank you for your letter, regarding childcare and District Early Learning Centres in School District No. 5 (Southeast Kootenay).

We appreciate your commitment to child care and early learning within the Southeast Kootenay School District. Supporting the inclusion of child care on school grounds is also a priority for all of us; the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Children and Family Development (MCFD), and the Minister of State for Child Care.

As you mentioned in your letter, MCFD has several programs to help fund the creation of new child care spaces. The [Childcare BC New Spaces Fund](#) is currently closed for new applications, but may open again after the budget for the next fiscal year is announced. This program is optimal for school districts looking to create quality, affordable child care in their community.

Within your current timelines, the [Child Care Rapid Renovation Fund](#) may be an option. This fund is currently open for applications, and is only available to school boards, public post-secondary institutions, and health authorities to create or expand licensed child care in public spaces they currently own. We encourage you to [submit an application](#) before the deadline on March 12, 2021. If you have any questions about the application process, you can contact the program directly by phone at 1-888-338-6622 (option 5), or by email at MCF.CCCF@gov.bc.ca.

Additionally, the District may wish to identify renovation scope in their 2021/22 Annual Funding Grant Expenditure Plan as a functional improvement to the existing school facility.

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Again, thank you for writing and for your commitment to child care.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "J. Whiteside".

Jennifer Whiteside
Minister of Education

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Katrina Chen".

Katrina Chen
Minister of State for Child Care